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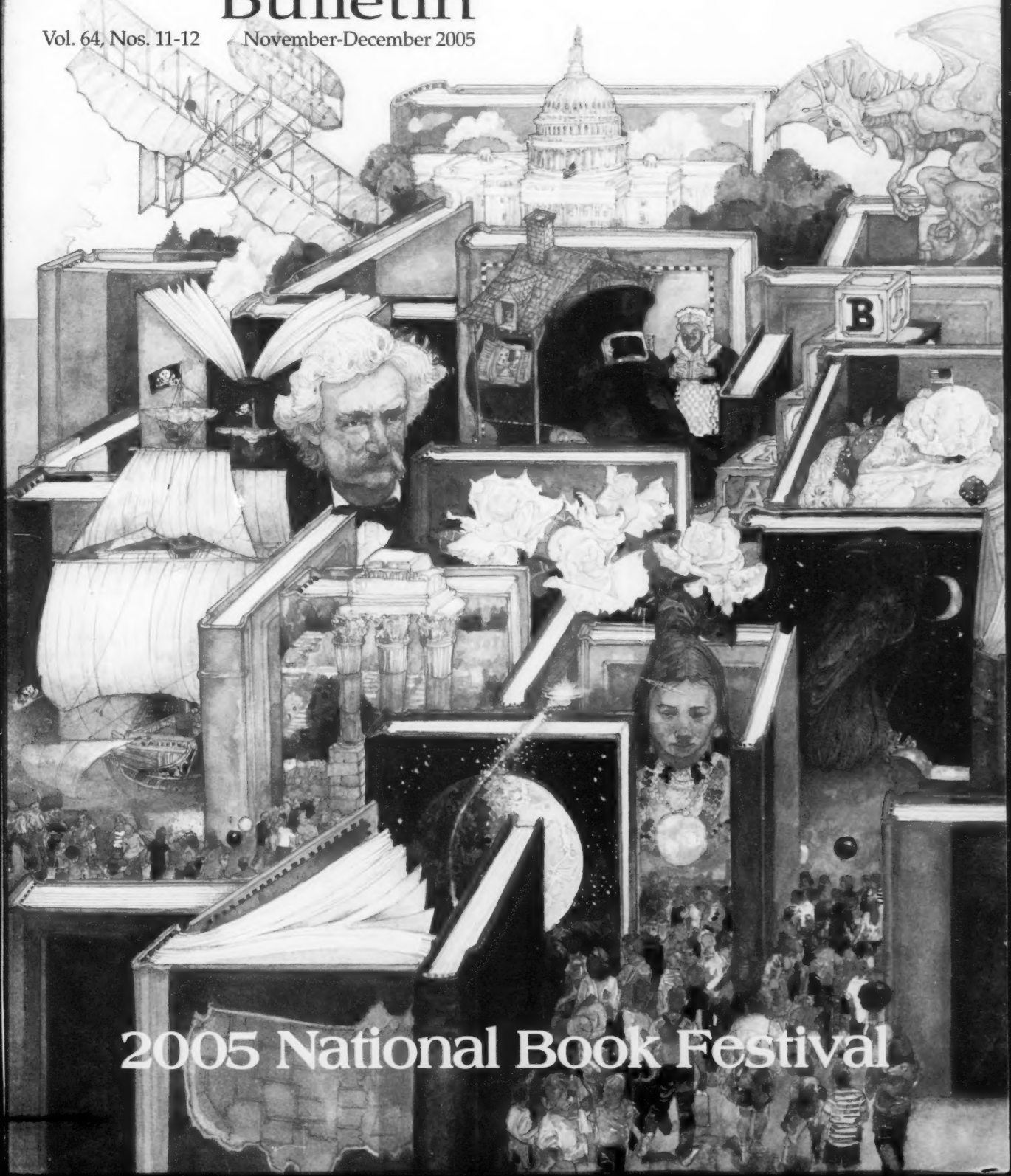
Information Bulletin

Vol. 64, Nos. 11-12 November-December 2005



2005 National Book Festival

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS

Information Bulletin

Vol. 64, Nos. 11-12 November-December 2005

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

Michaela McNichol

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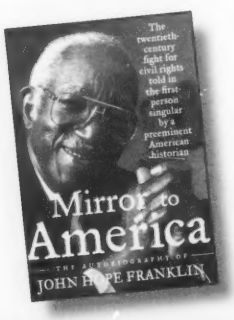
The twentieth-century fight for civil rights told in the first-person singular by a preeminent American historian
Mirror to America
JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

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UNL Photography ©2004

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On the Cover: Award-winning children's illustrator Jerry Pinkney created the colorful and imaginative painting for this year's National Book Festival poster.

Cover Story: The Library's fifth annual National Book Festival drew record attendance to the National Mall and featured dozens of authors, poets and storytellers in a celebration of reading. 235

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Note to Readers: Some issues of the Library of Congress Information Bulletin are being published out of sequence during calendar 2005 due to editorial and production considerations. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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JILL BRETT, Executive Editor
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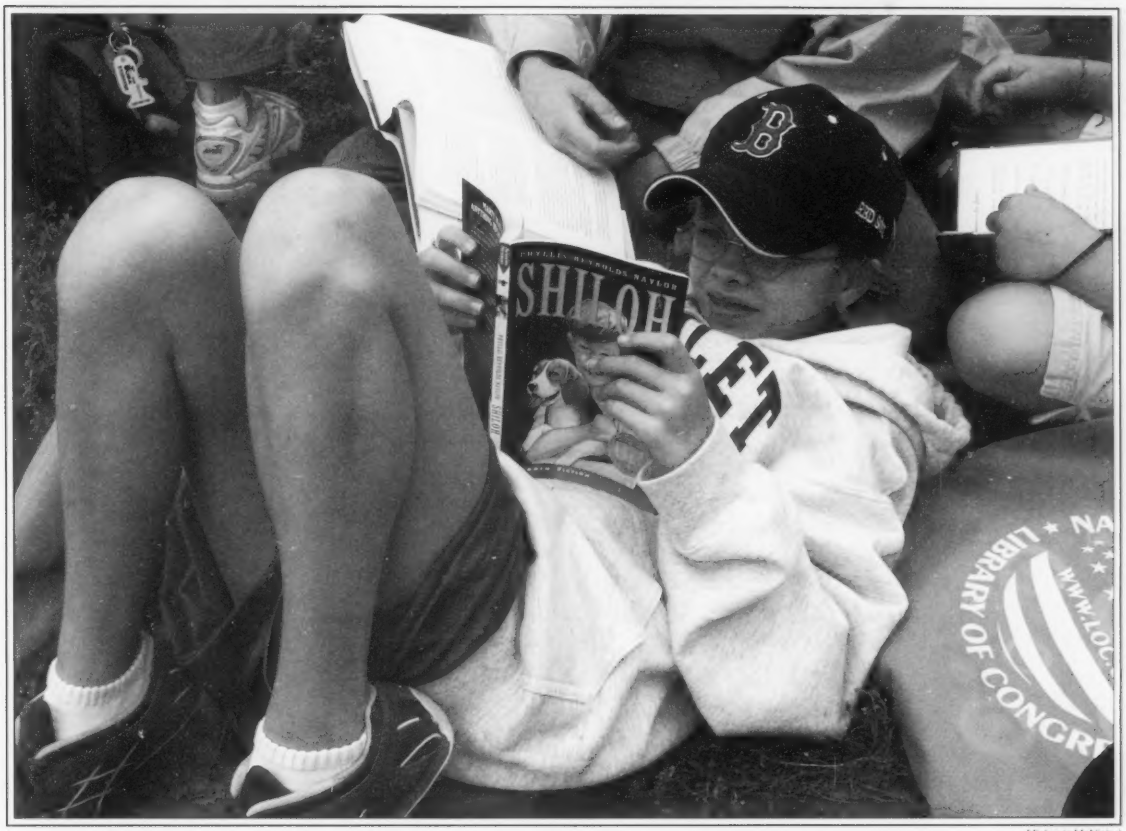
MICHAELA MCNICHOL, Designer

Ideas Abound at Celebration of Books, Reading

By Gail Fineberg & Helen Dalrymple



Michaela McNichol

The National Book Festival brings the creative spark of writers, illustrators and poets together with readers of all ages.

This year's Sept. 24 festival on the National Mall was a First Amendment model for freedom of expression. Festivalgoers carrying bookbags walked side by side with war protesters carrying signs; some went to both events. Nonfiction writers discussed their ideas in measured tones, while poets and novelists delivered their messages in metaphor. Children's authors and illustrators told their stories in simple words and pictures. From the audiences, opportunistic ideologues occasionally seized pavilion microphones and C-SPAN2 airtime to sound their themes repeatedly. Celebrity designers, decorators, chefs and a doctor, most with their own television shows, did what they do best: entertain.

The festival opened with ceremony in the Great Hall on the evening of Sept. 23. Attending the formal reception, program and dinner were festival authors and sponsors, Laura Bush, members of the Cabinet and Congress, the James Madison Council and other guests. Less formal was a reception among the U.S. Botanic Garden's exotic flowering plants for state librarians and other reading advocates who were converging on Washington from all 50 states and U.S. territories for their Saturday presentations in the Pavilion of the States.

During the Great Hall reception, guests circulated among archways softened by draperies. Satin gowns gleamed and jewels glinted in special lighting that set marble columns aglow. Military aides stood stiffly in formal dress. A military string combo played on the mezzanine.

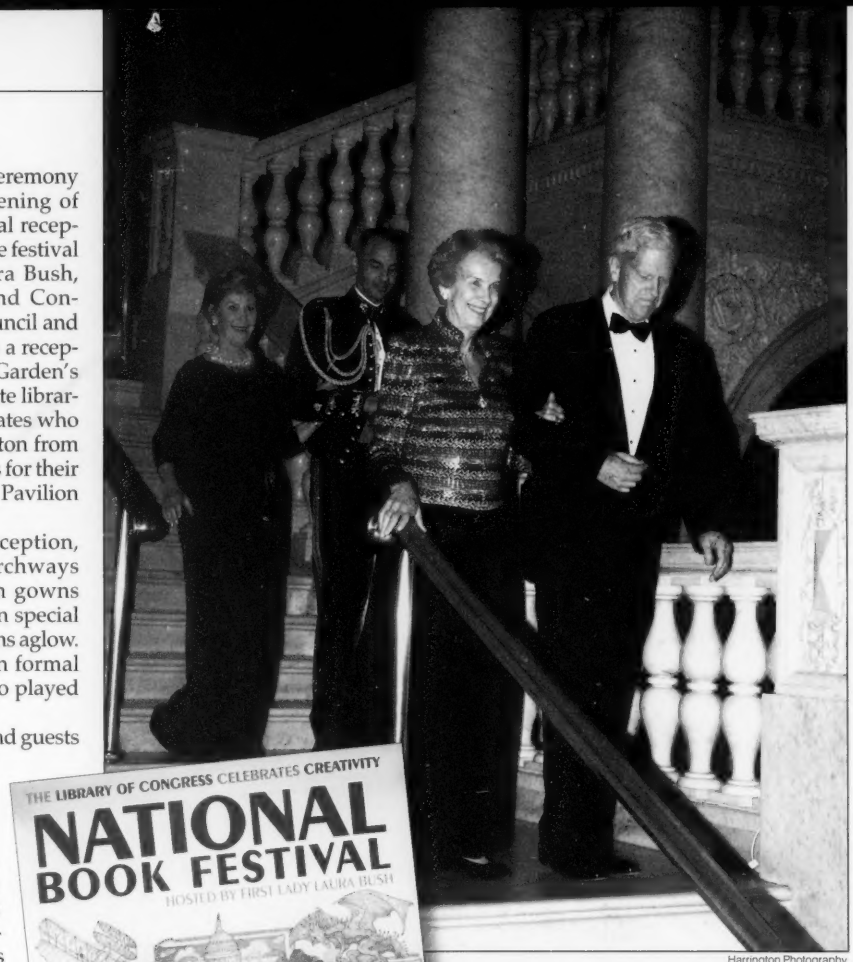
After escorting Mrs. Bush and guests to the Coolidge Auditorium, Librarian James H. Billington opened the program that preceded dinner in the Great Hall. "The National Book Festival brings the creative spark of writers, illustrators and poets together with readers of all ages," he said in his welcoming remarks.

He thanked Library employees for their yearlong effort to produce the festival, 700 volunteers for their spirited assistance, donors, particularly Target, that make the festival possible each year, and Mrs. Bush for her continuing support of the festival.

Introducing the first lady as "the reader in chief of the United States," Billington noted that the event originated five years ago as a "big idea" she brought with her from Texas, which had its own book festival.

In her turn, the first lady expressed her appreciation to Billington and the Library staff for all of their hard work in organizing the festival and then spoke briefly about the importance of books. "Books tell stories about who we are as a nation," she said.

Told in family Bibles, children's books, novels, histories and biographies, "stories converge in hope and love," she said. "They make us laugh out loud or move us to tears with emotion."



Harrington Photography

Librarian James Billington, his wife, Marjorie, and first lady Laura Bush make their entry into the Great Hall for a gala reception for authors and sponsors, members of the Cabinet and Congress, the James Madison Council and other guests.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CELEBRATES CREATIVITY
NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL
HOSTED BY FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH
SEPTEMBER 24, 2005 www.loc.gov

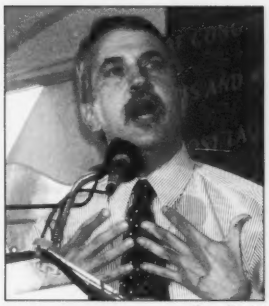
She introduced authors Linda Sue Park, David McCullough, Sue Monk Kidd and Tom Wolfe. Of McCullough, she noted that he started writing about history after seeing a collection of photographs at the Library. "Of the many gifts the Library of Congress has given our country, inspiring the passion of David McCullough may be one of the greatest," she said.

She spoke of the "strange, beautiful, haunting, uplifting tales" told by the other three. "To hear from one would be a treat, but to hear all four is a feast," she said.

The first author to speak was Park. "I am thrilled and honored to be here," said the daughter of Korean immigrants. Her third children's book, "A Single Shard," won the 2002 Newbery Medal.

She recalled her son's reaction upon learning of the award: "Gosh, Mom, think of all those kids all over the country who will be forced to read your books."

Once, someone in a book-talk audience asked her why she wrote books for children. She said she responded, "Only the author of books for adults would ask that question. If they don't read me now, they're not going to read



Donna Urschel

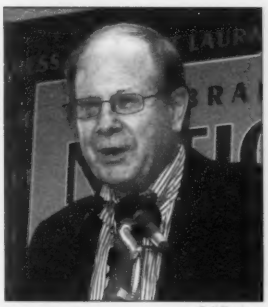
Thomas Friedman

Journalist Thomas Friedman declares that "The World is Flat" in his new book about the new global economy. "The world shrank and flattened as digital technology toppled old top-down controls over communications, politics, business, even centralized governments."

Michaela McNichol

Linda Sue Park

Linda Sue Park, the 2002 Newbery Medal winner for "A Single Shard," said, "Writing for children is investing in the future." Park read from her most recent work, "Bee-bim Bop!" This catchy rhyming verse for young children is about a favorite Korean dish.



Gail Fineberg

Joseph Ellis

Historian Joseph Ellis discusses his new book, "His Excellency: George Washington." According to Ellis, "George Washington is the most famous person in American history about whom most Americans…know almost nothing. And most of what they know is wrong."

Gail Fineberg

Robert L. Carter

In his new book, "A Matter of Law: A Memoir of Struggle in the Cause of Equal Rights," Judge Robert L. Carter tells stories of growing up in a segregated America and his determination to change that as an NAACP civil rights lawyer.

you later.

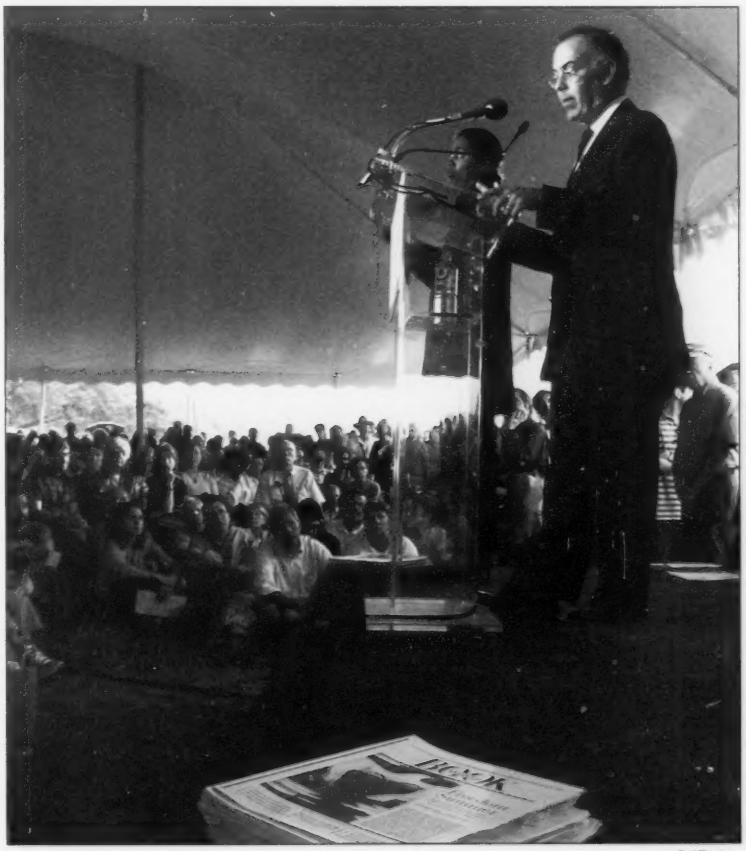
"Writing for children is investing in the future," she said.

The next morning, at a pre-festival White House breakfast that Mrs. Bush hosted for festival authors and their families, journalist-author Robert MacNeil said, "This National Book Festival is simply a wonderful idea. "There are many festivals, but none has the zip of the national festival."

In this age of instant communications, books still are important, he asserted. "Books are still the source of new ideas that are introduced into the culture and then percolate.

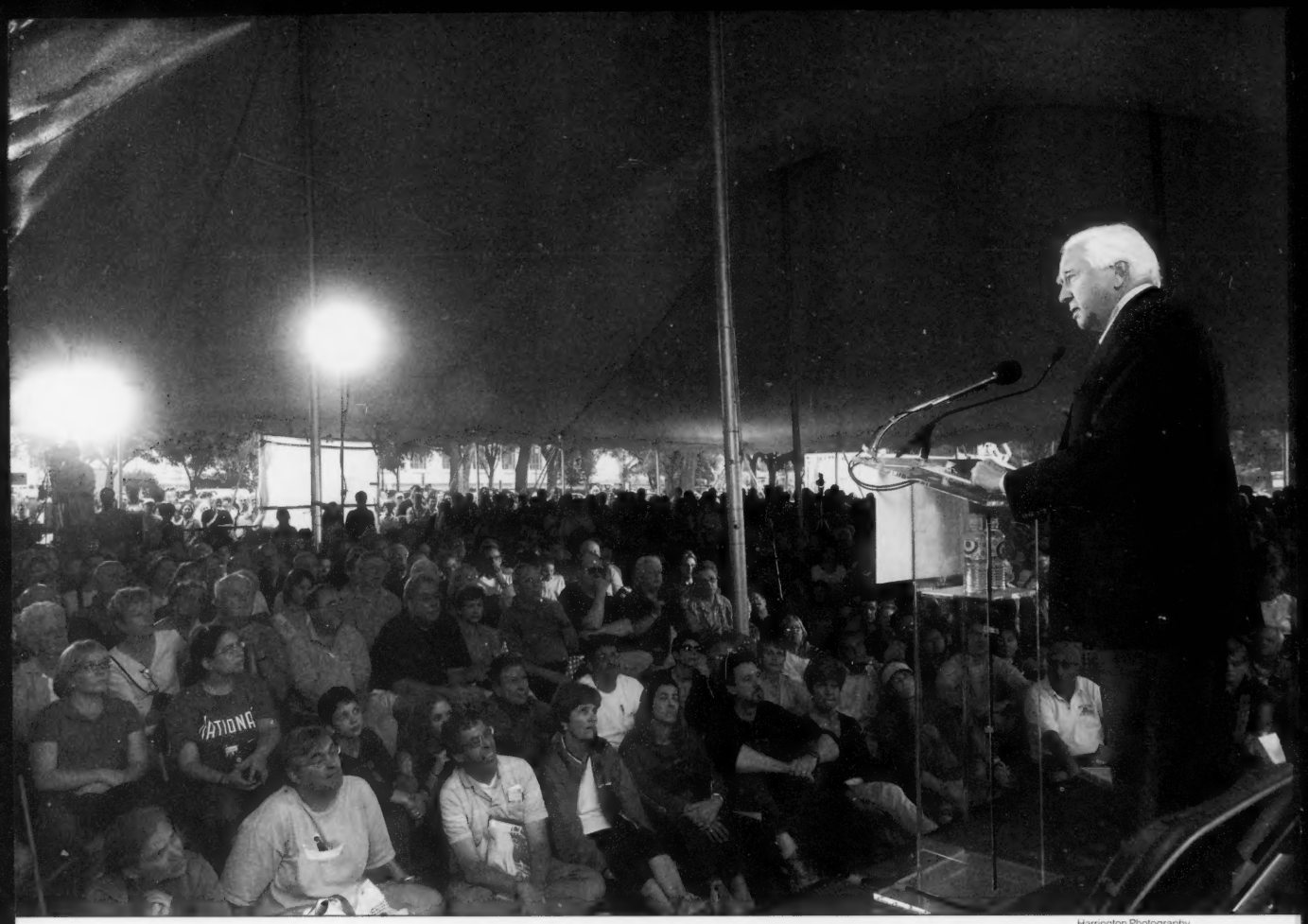
"Good ideas don't just pop into the mind," MacNeil added. The germ of an idea can pop up, he said, but it may take a decade or two for the writer to develop his ideas, as in the case of Robert Caro producing his books about Lyndon Johnson and David McCullough writing his book about John Adams.

Television is a medium primarily for spitting out fragments of ideas, he said.



Gail Fineberg

Journalist and author David Brooks discusses his new book, "On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (and Always Have) in the Future Tense," a witty look at the American experience.



Harrington Photography

David McCullough describes the hardships of Revolutionary War soldiers to a huge, rapt audience. "We're softies by contrast," he said.

"Pause for a thought on television and you won't be a guest on television very often," he said to the audience's laughter and applause.

Both the first lady and the Librarian noted that the National Book Festival was supporting the efforts of a nonprofit organization, First Book, to collect 5 million books donated by publishers to give to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. By the end of the day, families and children had donated several thousand dollars to the cause.

"The Library of Congress is also offering preservation support to libraries for the repair of water-damaged books," Billington announced.

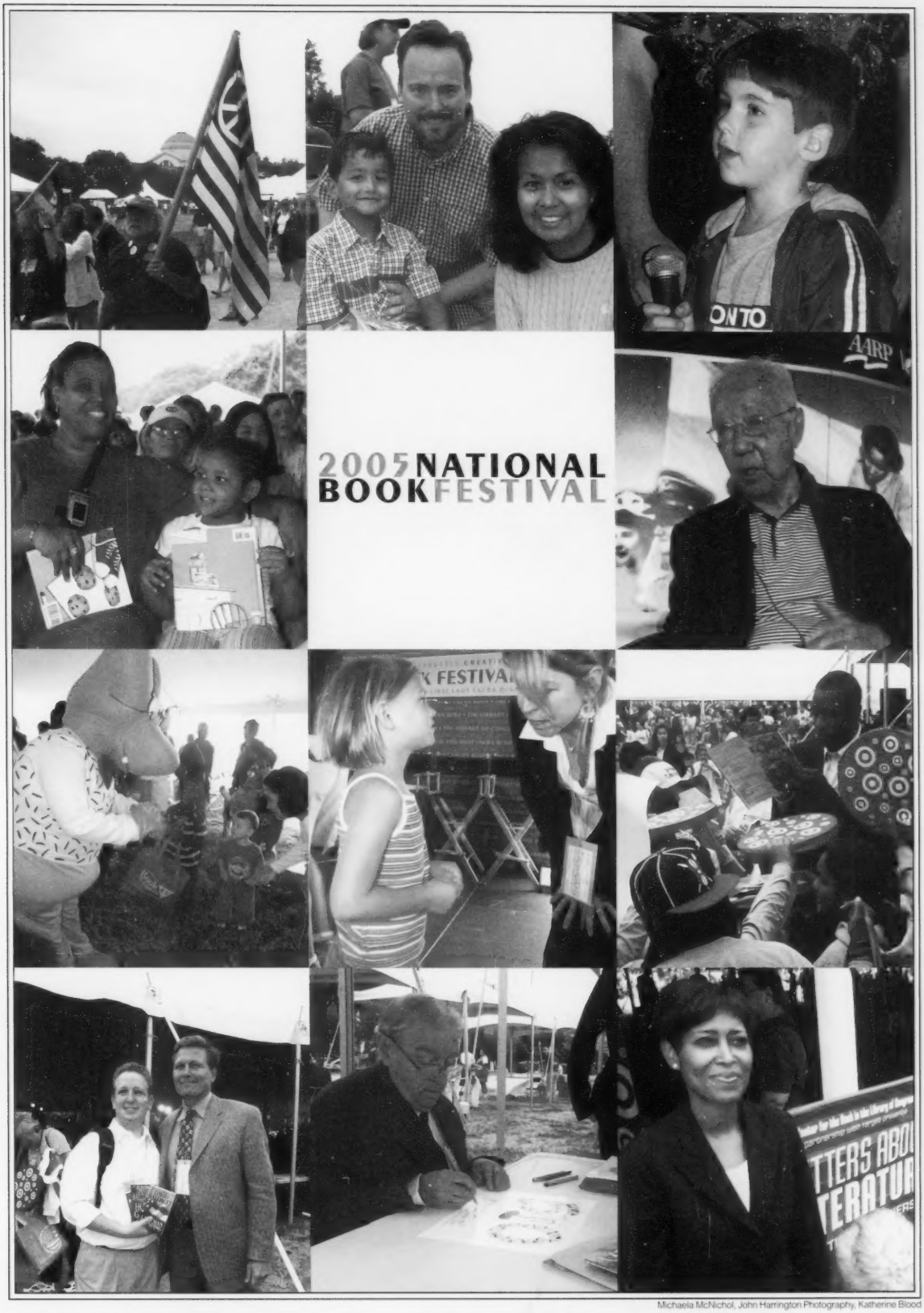
Later that morning, on the parched, brown plain of the National Mall, crowds of readers stirred up dust clouds as they hustled from white pavilion to pavilion to listen to their favorite authors. Twenty-five thousand lime green C-SPAN2 book bags and 20,000 scarlet Target cushions added splashes of color to an otherwise drab palate muted by overhanging gray clouds that provided relief from the heat and humidity of the night before.

The scene was, in the words of Washington Post host Marie Arana, editor-in-chief of Book World, "quintessential Washington" — a stew of festivalgoers and antiwar protestors of all ages.

> **The National Book Festival supports the efforts of a nonprofit organization, First Book, to collect 5 million books donated by publishers to give to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita .**

As the Smithsonian Metro escalator emptied hordes of people in shorts and blue jeans onto the Mall, festival volunteers in bright green shirts handed out programs and directed people to turn left for the book festival. March organizers in blue shirts handed out antiwar signs to trainloads of suburbanites and busloads of out-of-towners and told them to turn right for a route to the White House demonstration.

Although the antiwar protest may have discouraged some from coming to the festival this year, huge, enthusiastic crowds (some 100,000 by Library estimates) squeezed into pavilions to hear the stars — best-selling novelists, popular children's authors and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnists, historians and biographers. Most without seats stood politely several rows deep



Michaela McNichol, John Harrington Photography, Katherine Blood

Michaela McNichol

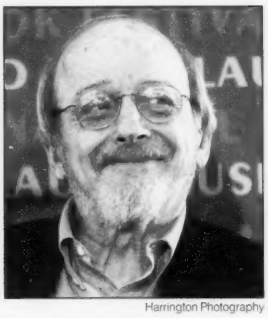
Buzz Aldrin

Astronaut and American icon Buzz Aldrin encourages young people to reach their goals in his children's book, "Reaching for the Moon." One of only 12 people who have walked on the moon, Aldrin achieved his goal of becoming a fighter pilot and qualifying for the space program.

Harrington Photography

Myrka Dellanos

Myrka Dellanos, a popular bilingual broadcast journalist in Spanish television, discusses the secrets of her success in the Home & Family pavilion. Her new book is "Triunfa y se Feliz; cosas que aprendi gracias a Dios, a mi madre y a la vida" or "Succeed and Be Happy; Things I Learned Thank God, My Mother and Life."



Harrington Photography

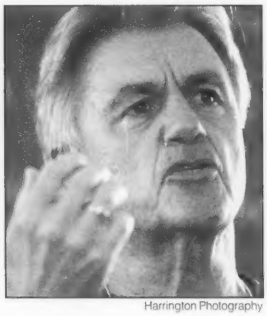
E.L. Doctorow

Novelist E.L. Doctorow is pleased "to see people who read" in attendance at the National Book Festival. His latest work, "The March" is set in the South during Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas during the Civil War. "It's this floating world on which I chose to build a novel."

Harrington Photography

Rupert Holmes

Rupert Holmes discusses how he fused his interest in music and mystery in his Tony Award-winning musical, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," and his most recent book, "Swing," a musical murder mystery. Still, he is perhaps most well-known for his popular tune, "The Piña Colada Song."



Harrington Photography

John Irving

John Irving discusses his latest novel, "Until I Find You," in the Fiction & Fantasy pavilion. Of his writing style, Irving says, "Any novel of mine is more imagination than autobiographical. ...I'm in it for the detail; I love detail." He starts his books by writing the last sentence so he knows how it will end before he begins.

Harrington Photography

Donald Hall

Donald Hall, former poet laureate of New Hampshire and the author of more than 15 books of prize-winning poetry, read Whitman's "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" in the Poetry pavilion.

Harrington Photography

Sue Monk Kidd

Sue Monk Kidd discusses her latest novel, "The Mermaid Chair," a story of a woman's self-awakening. Her first novel, "The Secret Life of Bees," caused "quite a buzz," according to Mrs. Bush, who introduced Kidd at the National Book Festival gala.

Harrington Photography

Andrea Mitchell

Veteran broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell discusses her new book, "Talking Back," a memoir about her experiences as one of the first women to cover five presidents, Congress and foreign policy. "There is no room for broads in broadcasting," was the message she was given in the early years of her career.

around the edges or sat where they could on the ground. However, in an occasional spasm of chair rage, some pushed and shoved to grab a seat. One man, who had lost track of his chair momentarily, demanded that a woman relinquish her front-row seat.

Oldsters with thinning hair seized front-row seats to better hear their favorite writers. "Can't someone stop that music? We're trying to hear," demanded one, indicating a black-box amplifying an author's speech.

Outside the pavilion, a man whose grizzled beard suggested that he might have heard Joan Baez sing at an anti-war event some four decades earlier, tramped back and forth with a sign

that assailed Bush and the war in Iraq in impolite language.

Young families, some pushing loaded strollers and others towing their kids, headed toward both events. Many carried both homemade antiwar signs and kids' books for authors to sign.

Signifying security-conscious Washington, helicopters looped over the Mall all day, wopp-wopp-wopp, sometimes shutting down speakers momentarily.

Booing audience members in the History and Biography pavilion closed off speech by one man who seized a microphone three times to ask Thomas Friedman, Steven Roberts and David Brooks if it were not true that Israel was responsible for the war in Iraq.

One woman asked a single question of three or four speakers: Had the media failed to report adequately on the role of oil in the Iraq war? A third man asked nearly all the speakers about the role that religion played in their own lives or the subjects of their books.

"To what extent do you see your life's work as a calling from God," he asked Judge Robert L. Carter, for 24 years an NAACP attorney who won 21 of the 22 civil rights cases he argued before the Supreme court.

"Ohhh, I'm not religious enough to answer that," Carter said, shaking his head. "I may have had a calling, but I don't think it came from God," he added with a wry smile.

Asked how religion influenced the Founding Fathers, Pulitzer-winning historian Joseph Ellis responded that Washington was a "lukewarm Episcopalian," Jefferson a deist, Adams a Congregationalist-turned-Unitarian, and none of them, including Franklin, could agree on matters of religion. The one thing they did agree on, strongly, was that separation of church and state was essential. "They believed no state should have power over religion," Ellis emphasized.

Elsewhere on the Mall, adoring fans mobbed their favorite authors for autographs. They stood patiently in a blocks-long line while McCullough, winner of Half-Price Books' Reading Advocacy Award, signed 700 books.

Early astronaut Buzz Aldrin, an advocate of future space travel and author of a recent children's book, "Reaching for the Moon," did not take time to sign an autograph book presented by a small boy on the festival grounds,

continued on page 243

Pat Fischer

First Book President Kyle Zimmer, left, greets Center for the Book Director John Cole in the Pavilion of the States. Both organizations are partnering to bring "Book Relief" to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina (see p. 250).

Harrington Photography

Tom Wolfe pauses from signing his latest book "I Am Charlotte Simmons," a fictionalized account of life on today's college campuses.

TENT
2
TENT
3
TENT
4

Pavilions and Authors at the 2005 Library of Congress National Book Festival

Children
Sponsored by AT&T

Buzz Aldrin & Wendell Minor
David Baldacci
Doreen Cronin & Harry Bliss
Hilary Knight
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Laura Numeroff
Mary Pope Osborne & Will Osborne
Linda Sue Park
Gloria Jean Pinkney
Jerry Pinkney
Sandra Pinkney
NBA & WNBA

Teens & Children
Sponsored by Target

Meg Cabot
Sharon Creech
John Feinstein
Jack Gantos
Patricia Reilly Giff
Pat Mora
Walter Dean Myers
Dave Pelzer
René Saldaña
R.L. Stine
Letters About Literature

Fiction & Fantasy
Sponsored by The James Madison Council

E.L. Doctorow
Richard Paul Evans
Jonathan Safran Foer
Diana Gabaldon
Neil Gaiman
John Irving
Gish Jen
Sue Monk Kidd
George R.R. Martin
Bobbie Ann Mason
Tom Wolfe

Mysteries & Thrillers
Sponsored by The Amend Group

David Baldacci
Nevada Barr
Sandra Brown
Jeffery Deaver
Martha Grimes
Rupert Holmes
Laura Lippman
Marcia Muller
John Sandford
Karin Slaughter

History & Biography
Sponsored by AARP

David Brooks
Andrew Carroll
Robert L. Carter
Joseph Ellis
Thomas Friedman
Kay Bailey Hutchison
Robert MacNeil
David McCullough
Andrea Mitchell
Steven V. Robert

Home & Family
Sponsored by Target

Giada De Laurentiis
Myrka Dellanos
Fernando & Marlene Divina
Leeza Gibbons
Jon Kabat-Zinn
Bob Kinkead
Chris Madden
Laurie Smith
Julie Sussman & Stephanie Glakas-Tenet
David Tutera
Judith Warner

Poetry
Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts

Kim Addonizio
Marisa de los Santos
Alice Fulton
Dana Gioia
Donald Hall
Andrew Hudgins
Dolores Kendrick
David Kirby
Samuel Menashe
Mary Jo Salter
A.E. Stallings
Christian Wiman
Al Young

Festival
continued from page 241

but other star attractions, including McCullough, Wolfe and Neil Gaiman, were autographing books, posters and casts everywhere they went. Gaiman signed books until 6:15 p.m., long after the festival closed at 5 o'clock.

At home at the nation's celebration of books was Hollis Gabriel, who until Aug. 28 taught third grade at the Academy of Sacred Heart in New Orleans. That day, one day ahead of Hurricane Katrina, she and her husband, Henry, a law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, and son Connor, a seventh-grader, left their Orleans Parish home and 5,000 beloved books. They know at least 3 feet of "horrid water" filled their home, and what the water did not destroy, mold has consumed in the 90-degree days that followed.

She left with one suitcase and a box into which she had tossed the things most precious, family photographs, love letters from her husband, poetry. "I love my clothes, but I thought, 'I won't need those in my next life,'" she said. "Even if we go back, it's a next life."

She paused. "I don't have my things, but it's freeing. Here I am, in this wonderful city with all it has to offer."

She looked around the Pavilion of the States as kids clustered around the Louisiana state table for stamps on their literacy maps. "This is fabulous," she said. "So many people celebrating books.

"I feel ready to move on. I feel like a door has opened for me here." ◆

Gail Fineberg is editor of the Library's staff newsletter The Gazette. Helen Dalrymple is the former Information Bulletin editor.

Thousands Explore Virtual Library

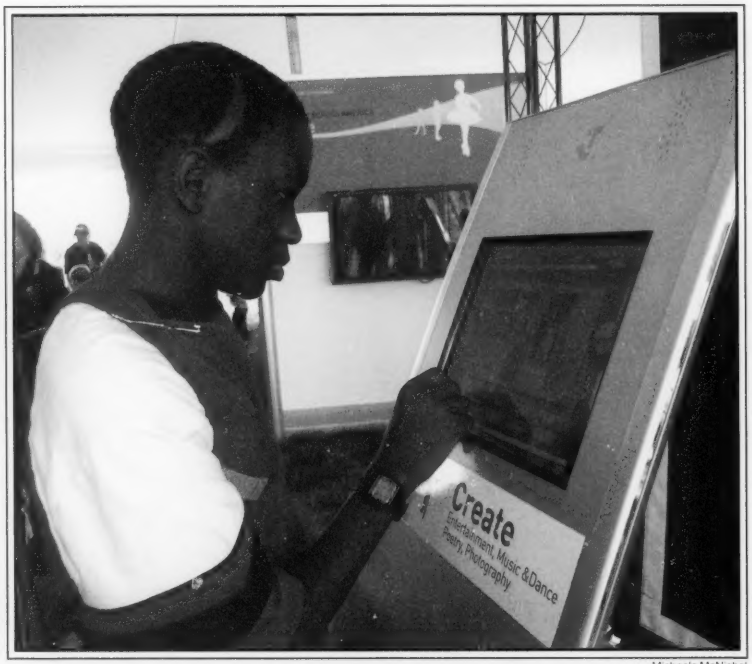
By STEPHEN WESSON

Virtual pages turned, kaleidoscopes whirled and creativity bloomed as more than 10,000 children and adults explored the world-spanning collections of the Library of Congress in the Library's pavilion at the fifth annual National Book Festival.

A Wall of Creativity was filled with visitors' personal and witty insights about the creative process.

The pavilion, which was designed and developed by the Library's Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI), used interactive games, media-intensive electronic exhibits and person-to-person outreach to showcase the cultural treasures of the Library's collections and to celebrate the rich legacy of American creativity.

Visitors crowded around touch-screen kiosks to explore dozens of historic films, recordings, photographs, music sheets and works of art that traced the history of show business in America, while still more highlights from the Library's collections played on screens overhead. Nearby, volunteers from OSI, the Copyright Office and many other divisions of the Library provided expert answers to visitors' questions and guided users through "The Library of Congress: Inspiring the World with Knowledge," a new CD-ROM introduction to the Library's holdings and public outreach activities.



Michaela McNichol

National Book Festival visitors such as Maximillien Kamdcen enjoy the many electronic exhibits that brought the Library and its online collections to life in the Library of Congress pavilion.

The noise and the intensity of activity both rose dramatically in the colorful Kids' Zone, where children clustered three and four deep around giant plasma screens to play educational games and engage in exploratory activities based on items from the Library's collections. Kids took a virtual balloon tour of Washington, designed their own imaginary cars and created new works of art from classic children's-book illustrations, all using activities that will be available on the Library's award-winning Web site (**www.loc.gov**).

One of the most popular features of the pavilion used no technology more advanced than the humble

Michaela McNichol

Jake Newman, 7, of Hanover, Pa., is one of thousands to express his thoughts on the Wall of Creativity in the Library of Congress pavilion. He said he liked the computers, which featured interactive games and multimedia exhibits of the Library's cultural content.

felt-tipped pen. A Wall of Creativity stretched across the back of the pavilion, and Library volunteers encouraged visitors of all ages to fill it in with their own thoughts about inspiration and the nature of creativity. The wall quickly filled with thoughtful, vivid, personal and witty insights, including spontaneous contributions from Book Festival authors David Baldacci, Jack Gantos and Patricia Reilly Giff, as well as Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and Deputy Librarian Donald L. Scott.

By the end of the day, the Wall of Creativity had been filled and replaced twice over, thousands of Library-related questions had been asked and answered and nearly 10,000 copies of the Library's free CD-ROM had been handed out to visitors. One OSI volunteer reported that the most common question he was asked, as the last children were led away from the Kids' Zone, was whether the Library of Congress pavilion would be returning to the Book Festival next year. ◆

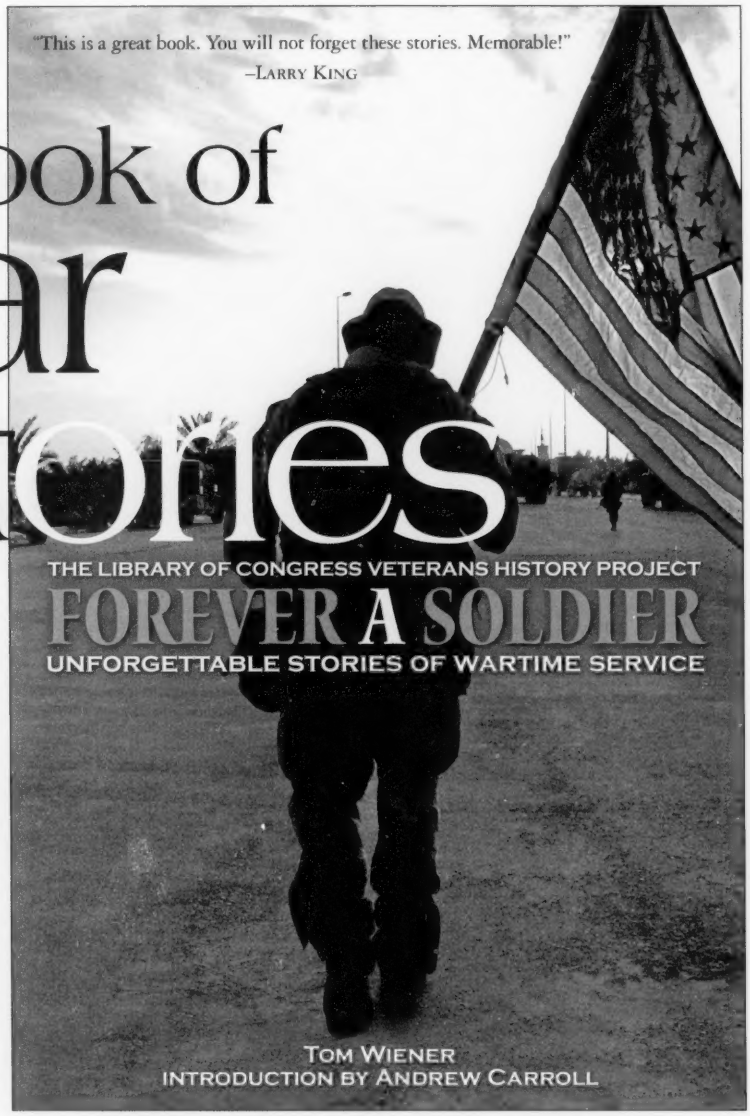
Stephen Wesson is an educational resource specialist in the Library's Office of Strategic Initiatives.

The Kids' Zone drew thousands of computer-savvy children and their parents to the Library of Congress pavilion.

Michaela McNichol

New Book of War Stories

From the Veterans History Project


"This is a great book. You will not forget these stories. Memorable!"
–Larry King
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT
FOREVER A SOLDIER
UNFORGETTABLE STORIES OF WARTIME SERVICE
Tom Wiener
Introduction by Andrew Carroll

By ANNELIESA CLUMP BEHREND

The Veterans History Project (VHP) introduced a new book, "Forever a Soldier: Unforgettable Stories of Wartime Service," and some of the veterans whose stories are told in the book at the National Book Festival on Sept. 24.

The VHP sold 240 advance copies of "Forever a Soldier" at the Library of Congress pavilion. National Geographic Books and the Library planned to release the book for sale on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11. "Forever a Soldier" consists of veterans' stories selected from the thousands gathered by the VHP in a nationwide effort to collect and preserve personal experiences and observations of those who have served since World War I. The VHP also sold 100 soft-cover copies of "Voices of War" (National Geographic Books, 2004), the first collection of war stories gathered by the VHP.

Also appearing at the festival was historian and author Andrew Carroll, who wrote the introduction to "Forever a Soldier." He joined the book's author, VHP historian Tom Wiener, in a discussion followed by a book signing. Carroll described his "visceral reaction to letters" as his inspiration for creating the Legacy Project, a national effort to collect and preserve wartime letters and e-mails sent home.

"Letters provide immediacy to the situation; they often have a sense of humor and give new insights you haven't heard before," said Carroll. He praised VHP for not only collecting written letters and memoirs but also recording oral histories to create a comprehensive archives of firsthand accounts of wartime.

Some veterans whose stories appear in the new book recalled their experiences for National Book Festival audiences. World War II veteran Denton Crocker shared stories from his tour in the Pacific Theater, which was documented in his memoir, "My War Against Mosquitoes," and also told in "Voices of War." His wife, Jean-Marie, wrote "Son of the Cold War," a memoir of their eldest son, Denton Jr., who enlisted in the Army in 1965 and died in combat on his 19th birthday in June 1966, while serving in Vietnam. His story also is told in "Forever a Soldier." During the VHP program at the National Book Festival, the Crockers gave a moving account of their son's belief in service. Denton Jr. had plans to join the Peace Corps after serving in the Vietnam War.

Norman Ikari and Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, veterans of World War II, served with the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental

Vicki Govro

Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), one of the sponsors of legislation that created the Veterans History Project, announces the publication of "Forever a Soldier."

In a photo from the book, John McCain, front right, poses with fellow navy pilots in 1966. McCain, now a U.S. Senator, spent five years as a prisoner of war.

Michaela McNichol

Tom Wiener, left, VHP historian and author of "Forever a Soldier: Unforgettable Stories of Wartime Service," and historian Andrew Carroll discuss the value of capturing and recording the memories of war veterans.

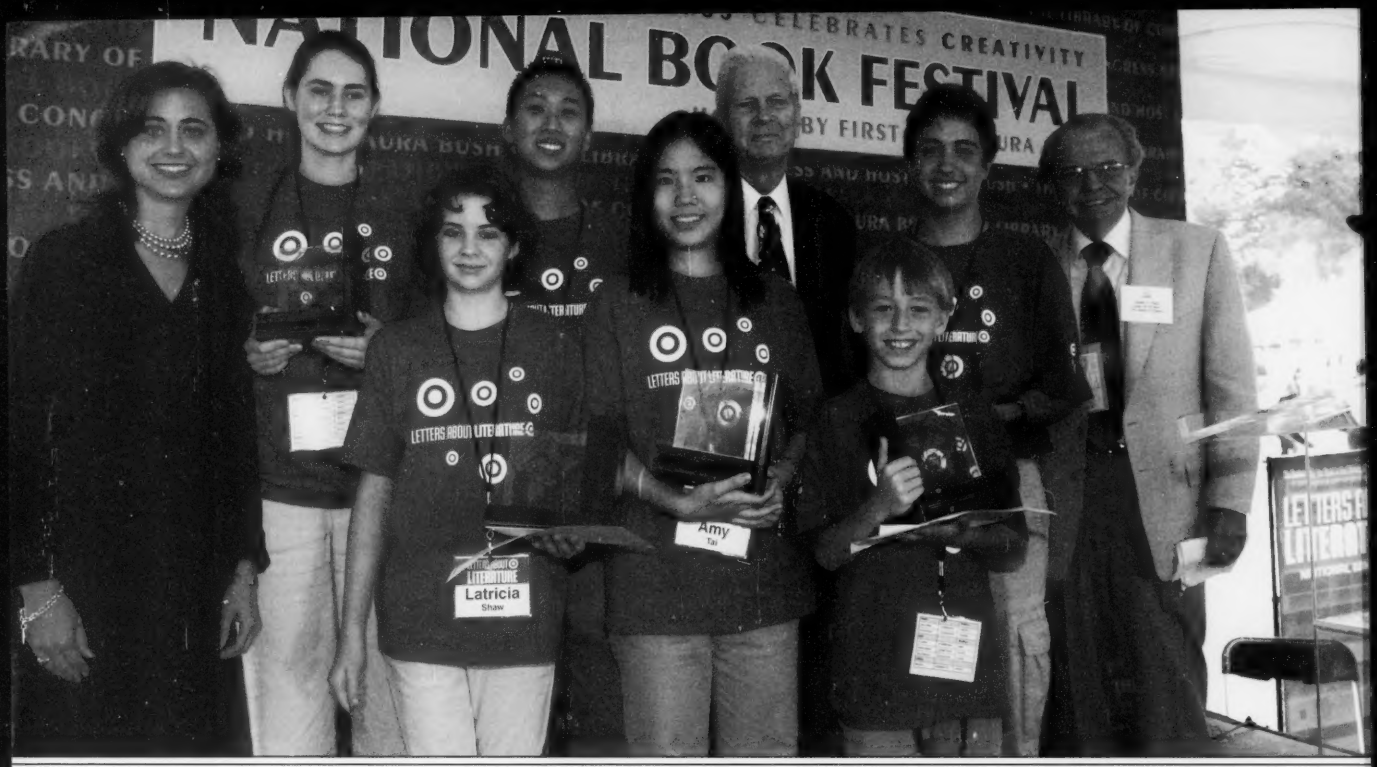
Combat Team, a unit composed of Japanese-American men, many of whose families were interned during the war by the U.S. government.

The 442nd, nicknamed Go for Broke, fought in Italy and France and became the most decorated unit of its size in American military history. These two soldiers met on the battlefield, when Kuwayama, a medic, tended to Ikari, who had been shot in his legs. Their stories are each told in "Forever a Soldier." Even 60 years later, Ikari and Kuwayama vividly recalled the mixed emotions of serving their country while Ikari's family was interned in relocation camps and Kuwayama's had to live off savings while his father's business was shut down.

The 352-page hardcover edition of "Forever a Soldier," with more than 65 illustrations, is available for $26 in bookstores nationwide and through the Library's Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4985. Credit card orders will be taken at (888) 682-3557. Online orders may be placed at **www.loc.gov/shop/**.

A companion Web site to "Forever a Soldier" with selected stories is accessible at **www.loc.gov/foreverasoldier/.** ◆

Anneliesa Clump Behrend is a public affairs specialist in the Veterans History Project.



Harrington Photography

These six national winners of the "Letters About Literature" contest met with with Target's Beth McGuire left, Librarian James Billington, center, and Center for the Book Director John Cole, right.

Books Inspire

Six Young Readers

By AUDREY FISCHER

Child abuse, suicide, autism, self-esteem, parental control — these are a few of the many issues with which today's children and teens are wrestling. Judging from the essays of six national winners of this year's "Letters About Literature" contest, books are helping young people cope with their problems and find solutions.

"A book is a book, and that was the way I always thought it would stay," wrote Gabe Goodman, a middle school student from Greeley, Colo., whose brother is autistic. "A book had proven me wrong, and that book was yours," he wrote to Terry Trueman, author of "Stuck in Neutral." Trueman traveled from Seattle to meet his young fan at the National Book Festival.

"Your book has created a miracle," wrote Goodman. "It has brought two brothers closer together. My brother looked different to me after I read your book. If Shawn in "Stuck in Neutral" could think up brilliant ideas and understood everything he heard, isn't it possible for my autistic brother to do the same?"

Goodman along with five other national winners read excerpts from their essays in the Teens and Children's pavilion at the festival. Sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book and Target, the annual "Letters About Literature" contest requires students to write a letter to an author whose book has changed their view of the world or of themselves.

The six winning essays were selected from more than 46,000 entries nationwide. Each winner received a $500 Target GiftCard and a trip to Washington to visit the White House and the Library of Congress and participate in the book festival.

David Pelzer's inspirational best-seller, "A Child Called 'It': One Child's Courage to Survive," had a profound affect on Latricia Shaw, an elementary school student from Springfield, Ore., whose foster mother gave her the book. Pelzer, who survived one of the worse cases of child abuse in Cal-

ifornia history, has dedicated his life to helping others achieve their potential through his motivational books and speeches.

"Suddenly, I realized that I now had more love and support than other children and that I needed to treasure what I currently had and not focus on the painful times of my past," wrote Shaw. "After reading your book, I knew that none of the abuse was my fault. You showed me that I had a voice that I never knew I had."

Pelzer, one of the book festival's participating authors, was on hand to give Shaw a hug. Meeting her favorite author was clearly a thrill of a lifetime.

In the aftermath of two suicides at his school, Ames, Iowa, high school student Edward Chen found a message of hope in Albert Camus' "The Stranger." As the main character's outlook on life transforms from being "so detached that it left no room for introspection, will, or any glimpse of personal identity," to "a hope of contentment in the embrace of death," Chen, too, chooses to be happy.

"Life is what I make it," wrote Chen. "And to have a life of depth, meaning and intensity, I must take the initiative to lift up my soul in times of anguish and to bathe in the pure joy of success. Through your heartfelt writing and explication of the human condition, Mr. Camus, I have been inspired to build a life of dignified and creative activism."

Amy Tai, a middle school student from Tulsa, Okla., struggling with her own mother-daughter issues, gained much wisdom from Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club."

"Before I read your book, I was always fuming and wondering why my mother was ... constantly picking at my faults," wrote Tai. "Afterwards, I understood that my mother was helping me because she wanted me to become an accomplished person, teaching me what my grandmother had taught her."

As a Chinese American, Tai further identified with the characters in the story.

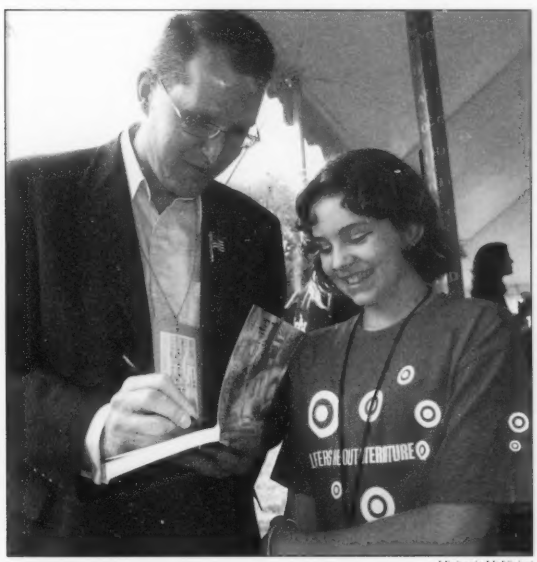
"My family is Chinese, and my mother knows from her mother how the bad times were in China. ...Your description of China during the war has shown me that I should appreciate life more. ... When I leave a room, I always turn off the light because I'm thinking that, somewhere, someone doesn't have the gifts I have."

Mitchell Deck, an elementary school student from Peoria, Ill., may be small in stature but he is big at heart. A sports fan, Deck was profoundly affected by Keith Brandt's "Lou Gehrig, Pride of the Yankees."

"Lou was not a natural athlete because he was chubby and awkward. Since I am small, sometimes it is hard for me to play sports and compete with bigger kids. ... Lou Gehrig makes me realize that if I try hard, people will see that I can do things that they think I cannot."

Gehrig's belief in the importance of education reinforced those of Deck's father.

"Lou felt that an education was more important than sports and turned down many offers while in college. My daddy tells me that a good education is more important than sports."



Michaela McNichol

Author David Pelzer signs his inspirational book, "A Child Called 'It,'" for one of his biggest fans, Latricia Shaw.

Harrington Photography

Mitchell Deck reads his winning letter about "Lou Gehrig: Pride of the Yankees" as Center for the Book Director John Cole looks on.

Radford, Va., high schooler Hannah Pierce was also strengthened by reading a good book. By her own admission, she was transformed "from a shy, timid girl ... to a bright, friendly personality" by reading Ellen Raskin's "The Westing Game." Pierce first had to get over her aversion to the gold seal on the cover, indicating its distinction as a Newbery Medal winner.

"I knew about those Newbery Medal winners," she wrote. "They were all boring to me, filled with typical people in realistic situations who learned plenty of moral lessons by the end of the story. After only eight sentences, my hatred had faded. I met Turtle and I was captivated. I still wonder how a whole decade before I was born you were able to write a character who would mirror my heart so accurately."

According to Pierce, Turtle, "a feisty 13-year old," encouraged her "to be bold, open and daring" and "a stronger, more confident human being."

Raskin — and the other recipients of the students' winning letters — undoubtedly created a lifelong reader by giving a young person the unforgettable experience of devouring a much-loved book.

"Spending time with Turtle restores my hope for reading. ... I also know now that tears shed over a good book are not wasted." ◆

Katrina Relief

Library Resources Assist Hurricane Survivors

The Library of Congress has initiated efforts to help in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita through book donations, programs on the preservation and recovery of materials, a collaborative project to collect and archive Web sites pertaining to the hurricane and its aftermath, staff fund-raising events, collaboration with Louisiana scholars and an oral history project for hurricane survivors.

In a Sept. 8 memorandum to Library Services division chiefs and recommending officers, Carolyn Brown, director, Collections and Services, and Beacher Wiggins, director, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, noted the scope of the disaster and the heroic efforts to assist in the recovery.

"It is now our turn, as keepers of history, to join these heroic efforts with our own commitment to document these events as they unfold."

The following is an overview of the Library's hurricane relief efforts.

Book Donations

The Library has joined with First Book to place millions of books into the hands of children and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The Book Relief project was represented in the Pavilion of States at the National Book Festival on the National Mall on Sept. 24. By the end of the day, families and children had donated more than $1,000 to the cause. The Library is also sending books directly to shelters and to schools that are serving people displaced by the disaster.

Francisco Appodaca

Kytara Gaudin, left, and Angela Cinquyemano from the Louisiana State Library.

Preservation and Recovery

The Library's Office of Preservation has placed information on its Web site at **www.loc.gov/preserv/** for libraries, archives, museums and the general public about recovering water-damaged materials.

In other preservation efforts, the Library is determining which recovery and preservation materials it has on hand that can be donated to libraries in need of such supplies; devoting staff time for expert employees to help in the hurricane relief efforts, either by consultation or on-site assistance; preparing a training course in disaster recovery and preservation techniques for librarians in the affected regions, which includes training in recovery of water-damaged materials and flash-freezing techniques; and is forming a preservation and conservation network of libraries that will be asked to offer staff time and cash donations for the relief effort.

Hurricane Web Archive

The Library has joined with the Internet Archive in San Francisco and the California Digital Library to create a Web repository that documents born-digital communications, reactions and commentary on the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, not only on the regions in the path of their destruction but also on the United States and the larger world community.

As of Sept. 30, the Library's recommending officers had recommended 774 URLs for collection and preservation. Of these, some 600 sites are being collected, and permission is being sought to archive 65 others.

Eighty-seven recommendations await further consideration. Included in the Library's recommendations are Web sites of governmental and relief organizations, educational institutions and media sites for which permission to archive must be obtained.

Charitable Fund Drives

During its fall Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the Library is featuring hurricane relief charities and organizations in a special campaign to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Louisiana Scholars

William Craft Brumfield, professor of Slavic studies at Tulane University in New Orleans and an expert on Russian architecture, will continue his research work as a scholar in the Library's John W. Kluge Center for several months while Tulane remains closed.

Wanting to provide an outlet for expression to poets displaced by the hurricane, the Office of Scholarly Programs invited Brenda Marie Osbey to read from her works at the Library on Nov. 3. Osbey is the poet laureate of Louisiana and a faculty member of Dillard University in New Orleans. While Dillard remains closed, Osbey is serving as an assistant professor in English at Louisiana State University.

Oral History Project for Hurricane Survivors

The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress is working with folklorists at the University of Houston and in Austin, Texas, to create an oral history project that will put academic survivors of the hurricane to work collecting survivor stories in Texas. The Library is training historians and other academics to conduct oral histories and will donate tape recording equipment for this project.

In addition, the Library will assist in the development of a database and recording archive so that this collection of oral histories will be usable by historians, journalists and other researchers.

The American Folklife Center is also working with folklorists in Baton Rouge and Shreveport on a similar project for hurricane survivors in those areas.

Once the New Orleans City Archives is restored, the Folklife Center has agreed to conduct a similar partnership project in New Orleans and will create a portal database that will house the oral histories collected in all three areas (Texas, central/north Louisiana and New Orleans). ◆

Disabled 'Need More Support' at Work

Young Woo Kang Delivers Disability Keynote

By ERIN ALLEN

Americans with disabilities have made progress in securing legal protections for their rights, but they still are underrepresented in the workplace, according to the keynote speaker for the Library's Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Young Woo Kang, who spoke at the Library on Oct. 11, said that one out of every five people in the United States over the age of 5 is disabled in some way, according to U.S. Census Bureau information. Three out of every four disabled individuals are not employed—a condition that Kang and his colleagues on the National Council on Disability (NCD) have been working hard to remedy.

A presidential appointee to the NCD, Kang is part of a consortium that is responsible for developing policies and making recommendations to the president regarding America's disabled population. Recently, the group celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"During the last 15 years we have accomplished lots," said Kang. "People with disabilities are legally protected. There has been progress made in telecommunications for the deaf and assistive technology for the blind and mobility-impaired, and improvements in the field of housing and transportation have been made.

"Generally speaking, more disabled are included and integrated into every aspect" of American life, he continued.

However, those with disabilities need more employment opportunities and a more supportive work environment, Kang said. He believes advances can me made by improving employee attitudes toward the disabled as well as by cultivating positive attitudes and leadership qualities among the younger disabled workforce.

The "Paradoxical Commandments of Leadership" by Kent Keith is an effective tool to accomplish this goal, Kang said. Keith's advice includes "The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow; do good anyway" and "Give the world the best you have and you will get kicked in the teeth; give the best you have anyway."

Francisco Apodaca

Marking Disability Employment Awareness Month at the Library are, from left, Gilbert Sandate, director of the Office of Workforce Diversity; Woon Hyoun, statistician in the Office of Workforce Diversity; keynote speaker Young Woo Kang, National Council on Disability; Mrs. Kang; and Saul Schniderman, president, AFSCME Local 2910.

"When I was a teenager and became blind, I didn't see any possibility of getting a job because, in Korea, there was a real negative attitude in society," Kang said. "Also, disabled people had poor self esteem. I saw my blindness as a punishment from God."

Kang said he changed his attitude and adapted to his condition. "The Apostle Paul had disabilities. I saw that disabilities could happen to anybody, even good people, at any time. Since then, I don't consider my blindness as a handicap."

Kang suggested using retirees as role models to help new workers become incorporated into the workforce. Also, he said, "values" such as faith, self-determination, persistence and compassion need to be taught to all employees.

On hand for the lecture were members of the legislative attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and members of the local disabled community, as well as representatives from the four Library labor organizations that contributed to the Multi-Year Affirmative Employment Program Plan.

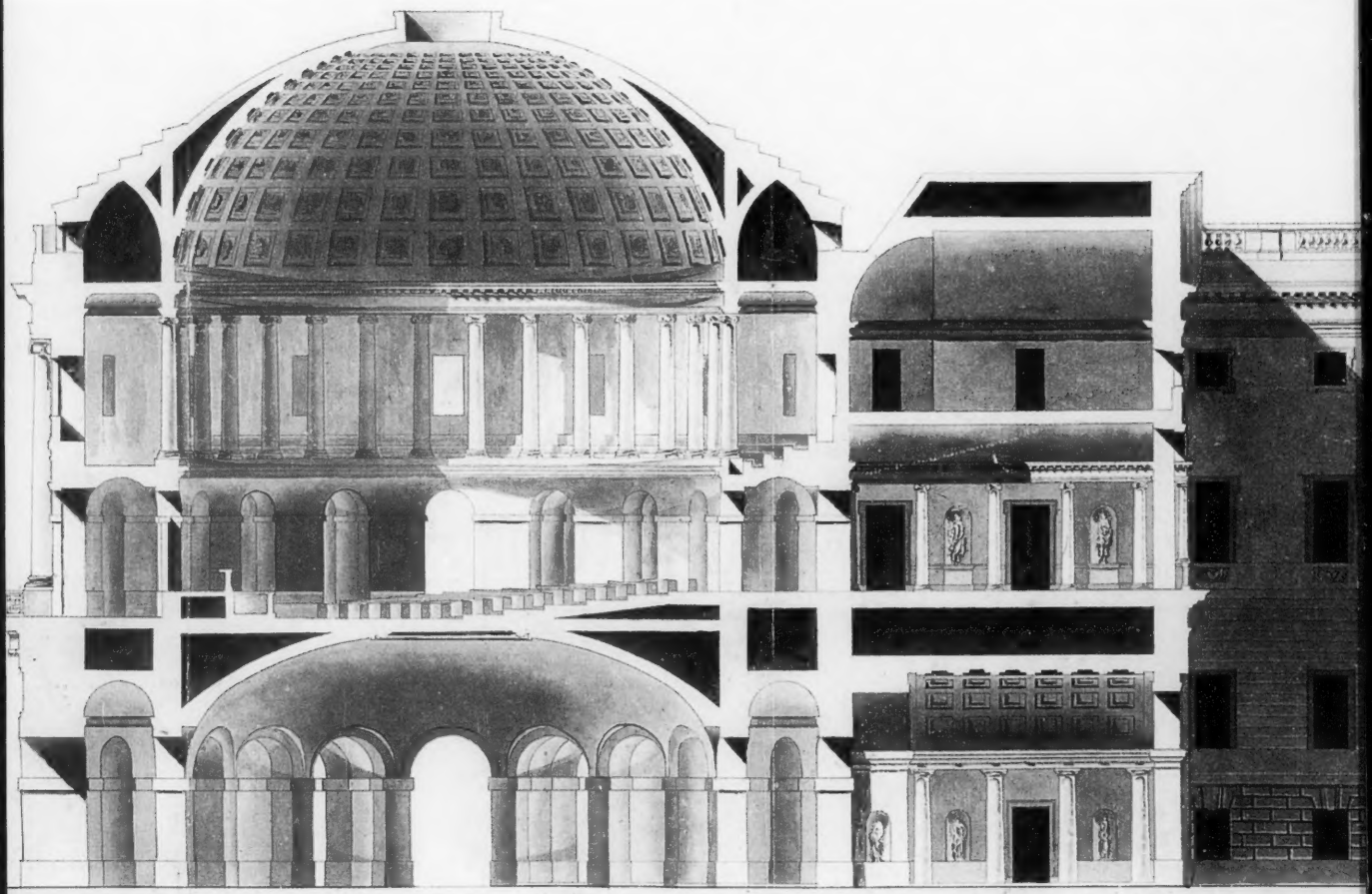
In his opening remarks, Kang conveyed his appreciation to the Library for adopting his books, "Light in My Heart" and "My Disability, God's Ability: 7 Principles for a Triumph [sic] Life," for the talking book outreach program of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Blinded by a sports injury in middle school, Kang became the first visually impaired student admitted to Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. After graduating with honors, he became a Rotary Foundation Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, as well as the first blind Korean to earn both a master's degree and a doctorate. Before joining NCD, he served as the dean of South Korea's Taegu University before becoming supervisor of special education in Indiana. He is an adjunct professor at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. ◆

Erin Allen is a freelance writer in the Washington area.

Capital Drawings

New Book Features Washington Architecture



Architect Stephen Hallet submitted this scheme in 1793 in the competition to design the Capitol. It shows a conference room where members of House and Senate could gather to discuss their differences. Hallet lost the competition and the room was never built.

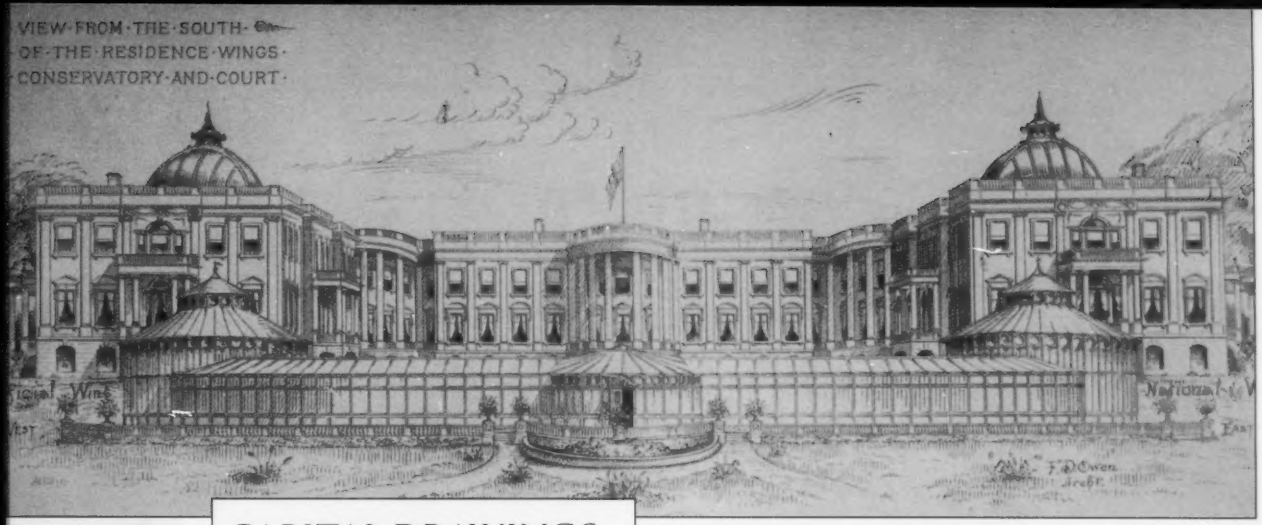
"Capital Drawings: Architectural Designs for Washington, D.C., from the Library of Congress" has been published by the Johns Hopkins University Press in association with the Library of Congress.

Edited by C. Ford Peatross, the Library's curator of architecture, design and engineering collections in the Prints and Photographs Division, "Capital Drawings" features drawings for some of Washington's most important buildings, monuments and memorials — the U.S. Capitol, the White House and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial — as well as anonymous structures of everyday life and ambitious projects that were never built. These documents tell the story of the capital's planning and growth.

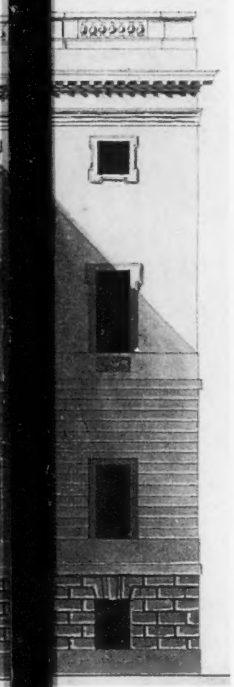
During the past 10 years, the Library of Congress has cataloged more than 40,000 drawings, prints and photographs that capture important developments in the growth of Washington and its metropolitan area. This volume is a guide to the Library's massive collection.

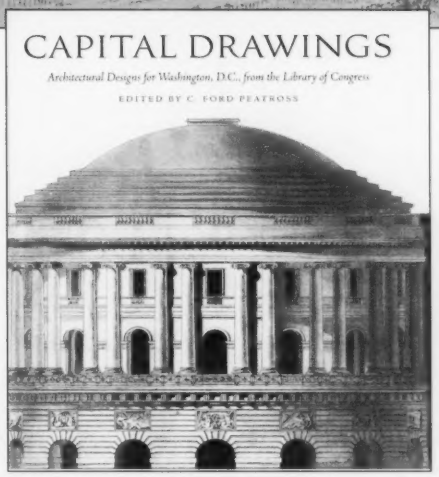
This publication and the conservation, housing and processing of the more than 40,000 documents are the result of the Washingtoniana II project (1986-present), funded entirely through a series of grants from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

"Capital Drawings," a 264-page hardcover book with 55 color illustrations and 123 halftones, is available for $55 in bookstores nationwide and through the Library's Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4985. Credit card orders are taken at (888) 682-3557. Online orders can be placed at **www.loc.gov/shop/.**

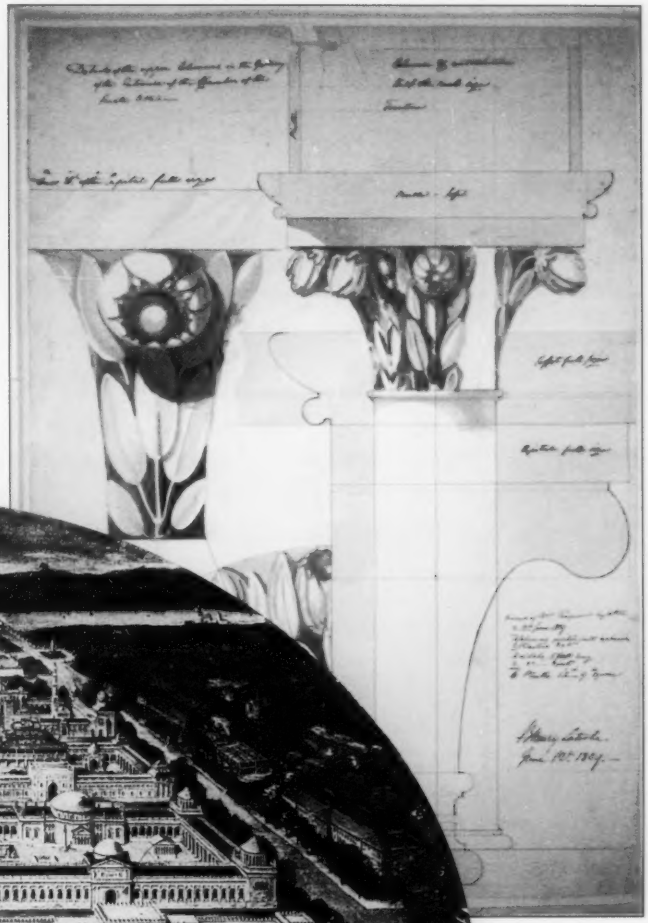


Frederick Owen's unrealized plan for a White House expansion would have transformed the mansion into a combination museum and botanical garden, with statuary halls leading to wings for art galleries and social and state functions.





Right, architect Henry Latrobe's details of columns in the entrance gallery of the Senate chamber. Bottom, architect Franklin Webster Smith's proposed National Galleries of Art and History, between 17th and 26th Streets and Constitution Ave. and F Street, N.W.



Mirror to America

John Hope Franklin on His Distinguished Life

By CHARLYNN SPENCER PYNE

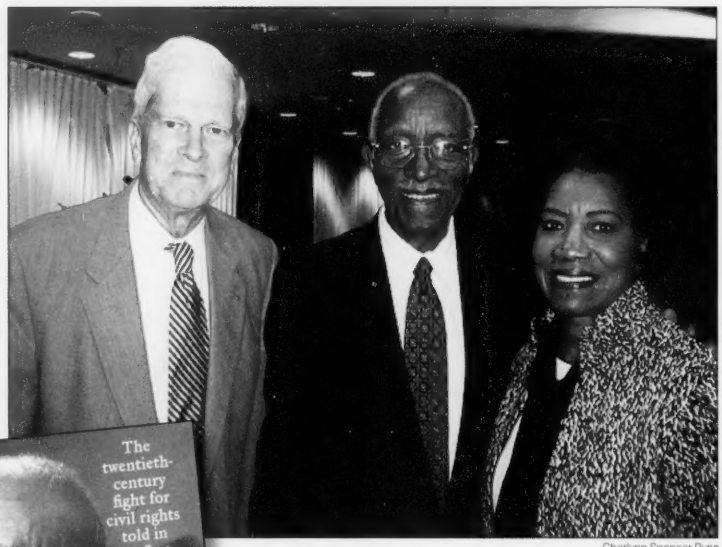
Historian John Hope Franklin in 2001 began working in the seclusion of the Library to write his own history and the story of the times in which he had lived, and he returned on Nov. 1, to discuss the results, his newly published autobiography, "Mirror to America."

Franklin was awarded the first John W. Kluge Distinguished Visiting Scholar Chair at the Kluge Center for 2001, and he researched and wrote intermittently over the next three years, as his health permitted. With his publication in hand, he appeared at age 90 to discuss his latest book and to thank the Library. "If it hadn't been for my becoming the … Kluge [scholar], I don't think that you would be here this evening," he said.

"I would be somewhere scrounging and scrambling and trying to do the work that I was able to do because of the way in which the Library of Congress facilitated my work," he said. "I am deeply and eternally grateful to you for all that you've done."

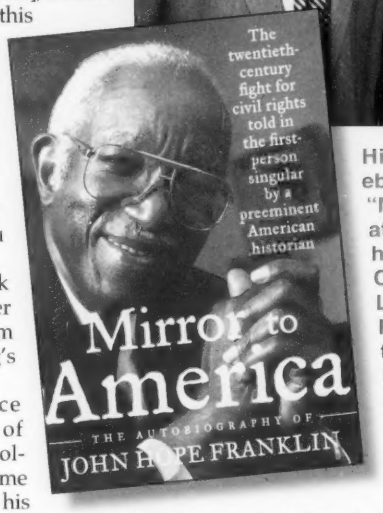
The Center for the Book and the John W. Kluge Center cosponsored the Nov. 1 program held in the Madison Building's Montpelier Building.

The capacity audience included some members of Congress, Library staff, scholars, teachers and students. Some had heard Franklin read from his draft of the beginning chapters of his biography in July 2001 in the Coolidge Auditorium and had awaited with interest Franklin's return with the rest of the story. Many in the audience also had studied Franklin's history, a staple in the college classroom, "From Slavery to Freedom" (first published in 1947 and now in its ninth edition), to learn and teach the history of African Americans.



Charlynn Spencer Pyne

Historian John Hope Franklin, center, celebrates the completion of his autobiography, "Mirror to America," which he wrote largely at the Library's John Kluge Center. Greeting him at a program sponsored by the Kluge Center and the Center for the Book were Librarian of Congress James Billington and Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.), the ranking member for the Committee on House Administration and a member of the Joint Committee on the Library.


The twentieth-century fight for civil rights told in the first-person singular by a preeminent American historian
Mirror to America
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

Introducing Franklin, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington noted that he had graduated from Fisk University in 1935, received his doctorate in history from Harvard University in 1941, taught at eight colleges and universities including Howard University, the University of Chicago, and Duke University. Franklin is the author or editor of 18 books.

"Dr. Franklin has received many honors, including the … Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995. He has also received honorary degrees from more than 130 colleges and universities, which must be a record."

Franklin titled his talk "Days of Infamy," which also is the title of a chapter about his experiences during World War II. "When the Japanese dropped the bomb on Pearl Harbor, the president of the United States went before the Congress the next day and said, 'Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy… .' But what about the other days? I believe that there was more than one day of infamy."

In response to the government's urgent call, he explained, and because he had a low draft number, and he had decided to volunteer for the Navy, "where they said they needed us the most""

Franklin, who at the beginning of America's entry into the war was teaching at St. Augustine's College, went down to the Navy recruiting center in Raleigh, N.C. The recruitment officer asked: "What can you do?" Franklin responded that he could run an office — he could take dictation at 135 words per minute, had three gold medals in typing and a Ph.D. in history from Harvard.

The officer nevertheless told Franklin that he was lack-

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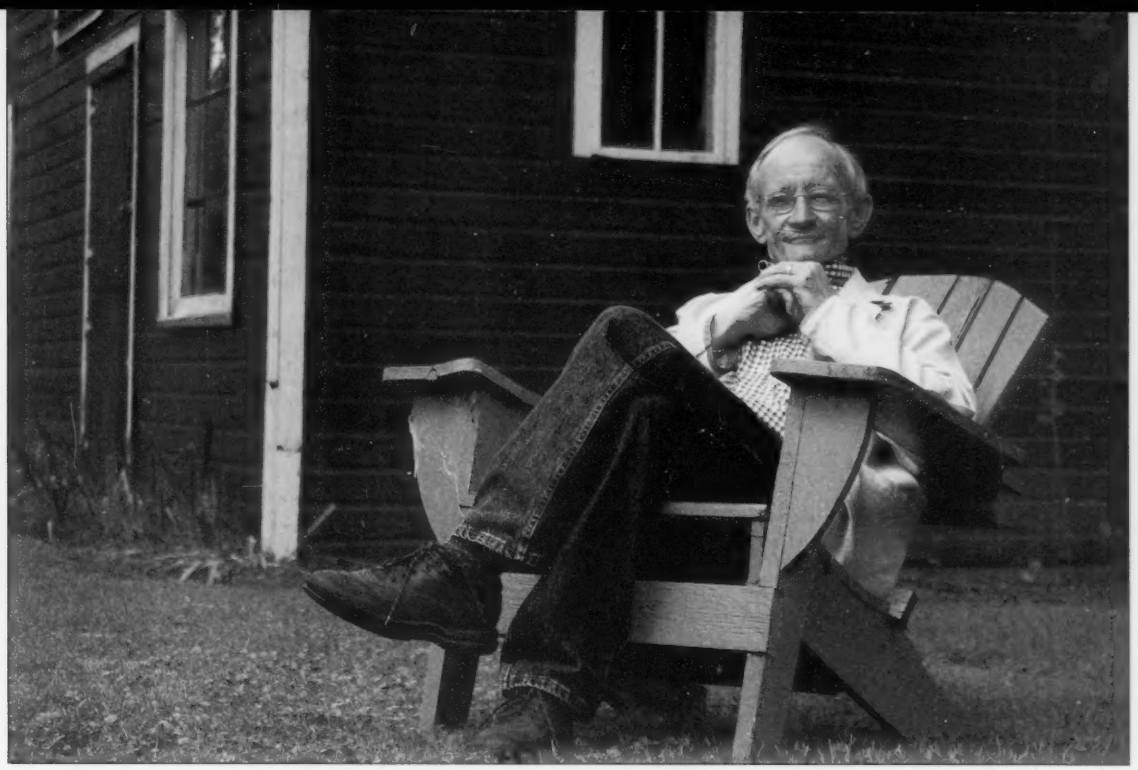

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Photography ©2004

A Touch of the Poet

Ted Kooser Takes Laureate's Duties Seriously

By DONNA URSCHEL

U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser read 17 new poems, many of them straightforward yet elegant observations of ordinary things, from an intense rollerblader to a 50-year-old chair, when he opened the Library's 2005-2006 literary season on Oct. 13.

Kooser, who is serving his second term as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library, wrote all 17 poems within the past year, rising at 4:30 nearly every day at his Nebraska country home.

"I really apologize for these poems being so fresh. A poet with any sense would let them age for a year, and eventually learn which ones worked. But I did want to read some things tonight that I had done while I was the laureate," he said.

The audience didn't mind. The capacity crowd in the Mumford Room was delighted with Kooser's poetry, which inevitably makes everyday things seem special. For instance, he examined the mundane practice of making lists. "I got to thinking one day about lists, how many of us make lists and what purpose they serve in the world."

"The List"
This is the little sail that pulls us over the cold,
hazardous waves of the day.
But then is neglected, stuffed into the hold of a pocket
and promptly forgotten
Or kicked overboard into the wake.
Yet we owe the list so much.
It's where history started. Notches cut in a stick.
A wheel of stone carved with a catalog and left in
the sand.
Every day there are more.
Blowing up into fences, somersaulting down ditches
next to the freeway
Fat wads of checked off words and numbers,
The true seeds of civilized life.

He also read a poem called "Success": "I can feel the thick yellow fat of applause building up in my arteries, friends. Yet I go on, a fool for adoration." He read about his wife taking Spanish lessons, pine trees dying of blight, a windy day, early winter and a mouse in a trap. He described a rollerblader he had seen this past summer while walking along a lakefront path in Duluth, Minn.

"The Rollerblader"
I saw her coming from a long way off.
That singular side-to-side whispering movement
As she swung her arms and legs,
Brushing the morning aside, the morning's inertia
And the dew, which throughout the cool night had
settled on the path like starlight.
An old man and woman, too, with their little dog
were swept off into the grass,
Lifting her knees
And they glanced at her hot red face as she passed,
As if they had known her once, or all that fury.

Kooser closed the reading with three Valentine's Day poems. About 20 years ago, he started sending out a poem on Valentine's Day to the women in his life, mostly wives of friends. Today, the list has grown to 1,600 females. He told the women in the audience that he would be happy to add their names and addresses to his mailing list and they, too, would receive a postcard with his poem on Valentine's

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Franklin
continued from page 254

ing in one important qualification — color. "I left with the same feeling that black volunteers must have had when George Washington rejected them in the Continental Army in 1775 or when Abraham Lincoln sent them home when they tried to enlist in the Union Army in 1861," Franklin recalled. "That is why I believe that there were different kinds of days of infamy and more days than one."

Franklin next wrote the War Department to volunteer as a civilian. There, he said, "several of my Harvard friends, some of whom had flunked their studies, held high-level positions" working on history projects. "The War Department didn't even bother to reply," he said.

"I was distraught and depressed. I decided then that the U. S. government was not going to get me because they did not deserve me, and that began the battle between Franklin and Franklin D. Roosevelt and all the others."

Franklin related with humor and pathos how he employed several ruses to obtain brief deferments from the draft, for which he was classified A-1, and the subsequent days of infamy.

After leaving St. Augustine's College in anger because the school's white president had refused to write a letter of deferment and had insulted him in the process, Franklin reconsidered an offer to teach at North Carolina College for Negroes in Durham, and called the president. "I told President [James E.] Shepard that I would accept his offer on one condition: If he was still a member of the draft appeal board, he would see to it that I would be deferred if the request came," Franklin said. "He told me in a jocular tone that would be no problem because he had an interest in seeing an American victory."

"So you see that there were days of infamy, some of which I think the country should be ashamed of," he said. ◆

Charlynn Spencer Pyne is editor of Library Services News.

Gail Fineberg

Escorted by Librarian James Billington, Bulgaria's first lady, Zorka Parvanova, left, who has a doctorate in Balkan history, and first lady Laura Bush view items from the Library's collections on Oct. 17. Reference librarian Angela Cannon of the European Division explains the significance of a rare Ottoman atlas (in cradle), one of only seven copies known to exist of the original 50 published in Istanbul in 1803. At left is "Kyriakodromion" "Sunday Book" the first book published in modern Bulgaria (1806), and lying flat is a 1541 Ptolemaic map, the Library's oldest map that depicts the Balkan Peninsula.

Kooser
continued from page 255

Day. After the reading, many slipped him pieces of paper with their information.

The Valentine's Day poems he writes are not traditional. Maybe they include the word "heart," for instance, if he is talking about the hearts of celery or an artichoke heart. The three he read were "Song of the Ironing Board," "Barn Owl" (which has a heart-shaped face), and "Oh, Mariachi Me."

Kooser also mentioned his "American Life in Poetry" project (**www.americanlifeinpoetry.org**), which is a weekly column that he offers to newspapers and other publications over the Web. The column features a short poem written by other poets. Every Thursday, Kooser chooses a new poem and supplies a brief introduction. The project is Kooser's effort to help increase the country's appreciation of poetry. Launched in April 2004, the column is now featured in 134 newspapers, reaching a potential audience of 9.6 million readers.

The project will continue, even after Kooser finishes his laureateship. "I will keep it going until I drop. I tend to have a lot of fun with it, and I hope to have 20 million potential readers in another year," he said.

Kooser also recapped his first year as poet laureate: "It has been like a blur to me in many ways. I conducted 71 interviews and 107 personal appearances or readings." Describing his style, he said, "I stand for the kind of poetry that the everyday person can appreciate."

Kooser, a retired life insurance executive, thanked the Librarian for selecting him as poet laureate in 2004 and again in 2005: "In many ways it was a courageous thing to do, to choose a guy like me from the middle of nowhere, when many of the poets laureate had been from the coasts. He probably knew that I would dive into this headlong, like a dutiful Midwestern guy.

"And as a result, I took it upon myself to prove that someone from a little place in Nebraska — the nearest town to my home has 240 people — could do a really good job of this. And I've pretty much worked it seven days a week ever since, and I intend to keep that up." ◆

Donna Urschel is a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office.

A New Vision, a New Future

Johnson Encourages Change in Indian Country

By ERIN ALLEN

Peppering her remarks with her native tongue and chants from the Tlingit tribe of Alaska, Jacqueline Johnson, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), delivered the keynote address on Nov. 8 to mark the beginning of the Library's celebration of Native American Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Building a Brighter Future for Our Children and Our Community."

With enthusiasm tempered with realism, Johnson discussed the state of Indian affairs with an eye toward a "new vision" for the future.

"We are the people who believe in the seventh generation. ... Every decision we make affects the seventh generation in the future," she explained. "We are the people who have a strong value system, and that's made us survivors in a world of forced relocation and assimilation, and legal efforts to strip us of our religious and cultural practices."

According to Johnson, Native American tribal governments face challenges such as declining federal support, struggles in building tribal infrastructures and community programs, a growing digital divide among those who use online technologies and those who do not, and the loss of native language.

"Of the 300 or so regional languages spoken in the North American continent, only 175 still remain. Of these, 55 are spoken by less than six people," Johnson said. "Only 20 of the remaining languages are spoken widely by children."

Despite these setbacks, Johnson still believes that Native Americans have much to celebrate. Their population is steadily growing, especially among the younger generation. Statistics show that 33.9 percent of the Native American population is under the age of 18, while only 25 percent of the general United States population is in this age range. In addition, Native American businesses are the fastest growing sector in the small-business arena. Between 1992 and 1997, businesses grew 84 percent and made some $34 billion in revenue.

Johnson encouraged a new vision for tribal communities – one that builds on the gains made through tribal self-determination and increased tribal authority. In an effort to reach these goals, tribal leaders recently gathered at a forum hosted by NCAI to discuss future plans and objectives. These objectives include creating a research policy center to facilitate change and promoting core values such as wisdom, academic and indigenous knowledge, tribal self-governance, cultural conservation, sharing and respect.

"No right is more sacred to a nation than the right to determine its social, economic, political and cultural future without external interference," said Johnson, quoting a statement made by the late Joe DeLaCruz, tribal leader and president of the Quinault Indian Nation. DeLaCruz believed that "the fullest expression of this right occurs when a nation freely governs itself. We call this the exercise of 'right of self-determination.' The practice of this right is self-government."

Hoping to continue the work of DeLaCruz, tribal leaders who attended the recent forum discussed the need for a commitment to change, a willingness to take risks, the need to develop a global perspective and the ability to communicate new alternatives and periodically make adjustments to improve tribal leadership.

"Too many times I hear the motto, 'I'll believe it when I see it.' I believe that if we truly want to make a better future for our children and communities, we have to believe it before we see it," said Johnson. "We live in a world of possibilities, and we must have a vision to make them become a reality."

Michaela McNichol

Jacqueline Johnson

Johnson stressed the importance of children as purveyors of the future. In the last year, tribes have had to overcome some extreme difficulties, including high suicide rates, drug abuse and an elevated high school dropout rate.

"We're developing a grassroots children's agenda – one that focuses on success and education," she said. "Instead of studying what's wrong with the world, we're going to study what's right."

Johnson went on to acknowledge another great Native American luminary – the leader of her own tribe, known as Silver Dollar Eyes. During a near-death experience, the tribal leader's elders appeared to him in a vision and bid him to "take care of his business" before he left this world. They told him it was up to him to see that the grandchildren of his tribe knew who they were and understood the traditional cultures and values. When he recovered, Silver Dollar Eyes went to the school systems and created the very first Tlingit curriculum, to be implemented in an environment in which the Indian children could be successful.

"He understood the value of reaching out to people outside our communities," said Johnson. "He understood that our best advocates and best spokespersons are those who know us and who can stand up for us in places where we can't stand up for ourselves."

Today, she says, when she goes home to Alaska, the children are singing the traditional native songs, speaking in their native tongue and going to college.

"We have a vision, and we want you to share that vision with us." ◆

Erin Allen is a freelance writer in the Washington area.

Pat Fisher

Best-selling author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, whose book "Shiloh" was selected by West Virginia for the "52 Great Reads" list, signs autographs at the West Virginia table in the Pavilion of the States. On the right, two members of the public hold copies of the pavilion brochure "Discover Great Places Through Reading" that contains the list. Suzy McGinley from the West Virginia State Library is behind Ms. Naylor.

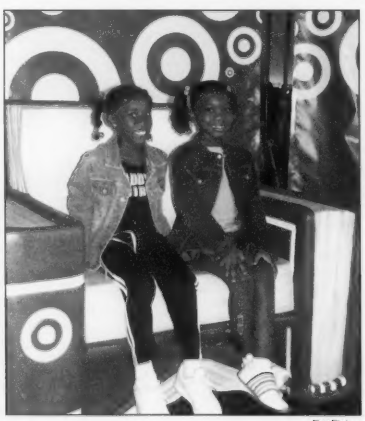
News from the Center for the Book

Promoting Reading at the Book Festival

By JOHN Y. COLE

For the fifth straight year, the Center for the Book played a key role in the Library's annual National Book Festival. The center develops, coordinates and oversees arrangements for the presentations by the festival's authors, illustrators and poets.

In turn, the National Book Festival helps the center strengthen its mission of stimulating public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries. The state centers for the book and many of the center's national reading promotion partners are active festival participants. For example, in cooperation with two of its national reading promotion partners — the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities — the center organizes and manages the Pavilion of the States. A third partner, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), has sponsored the Poetry Pavilion since 2003 and once again played a role in the selection and support of this year's participating poets.



Pat Fisher

In the Let's Read America pavilion, two young readers pose for their photo in Target's Big Red Chair.

The center also was an active participant in the Let's Read America pavilion, which features reading promotion projects sponsored by the festival's corporate contributors.

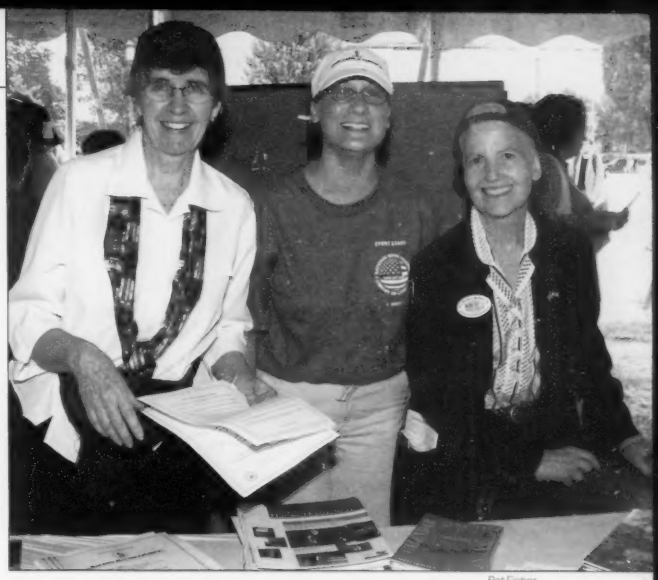
Authors, Illustrators and Poets

The 2005 National Book Festival featured 82 popular authors, illustrators and poets — the largest assemblage in the festival's history. Participants are nominated and supported by their publishers, with a high priority given to nationally known and award-winning nominees. Individual presentations and book signings are the heart of the National Book Festival experience, as they bring readers together with their favorite writers.

Most of the presentations by authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers at all five National Book Festivals may be seen and heard on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/bookfest/**. Taken as a whole, these presentations provide a snapshot of contemporary American writers and writing at the beginning of the 21st century.

The Pavilion of the States

Since its debut at the 2002 National Book Festival, the Pavilion of the States has been one of the festival's



Pat Fisher

At the New York table in the Pavilion of the States, a volunteer from the Junior League of Washington is flanked by New York Center for the Book coordinator Deirdre Stam, left, and Mary Redmond of the New York State Library.

most popular sites. Here each state has an opportunity to share information about its reading and literacy promotion projects as well as its libraries and literary traditions. The District of Columbia also participates in the festival, along with four U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S.Virgin Islands).

A popular activity, especially among young readers, is a map of the states ("Discover Great Places Through Reading") that can be stamped with interesting state symbols at each table. On the back of the map, a book list titled "52 Great Reads About Great Places" includes one book for young people chosen by each state, the District of Columbia and the territories.

In 2005, seven festival authors and illustrators made scheduled visits to seven different state tables to greet fans and to sign autographs. They were Marcia Mueller (California), Wendell Minor (Connecticut), Laura Lippman (Maryland), Jack Gantos (Massachusetts), Walter Dean Myers (New Jersey), David Baldacci (Virginia) and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (West Virginia). In addition, Jennifer Ericsson, author of Home to Me, Home to You, New Hampshire's selection for the "52 Great Reads" list, visited the New Hampshire table.

A highlight in the Pavilion of the States in 2005 was an information table about Book Relief, a new campaign to place more than 5 million new books in the hands of children and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Organized by First Book, a nonprofit organization and a reading promotion partner of the Center for the Book, the project will also provide books to needy schools and libraries. The Library of Congress is one of several organizations joining First Book in the Book Relief effort. The table was located adjacent to the state tables from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Let's Read America Pavilion

Target, the National Book Festival's major financial supporter, highlighted the "Letters About Literature" reading and writing program, which it co-sponsors with the Center for the Book.

The six national winners read excerpts from their letters at the festival (see related story in this issue on page 248).

Festival goers enjoyed taking photos of their families and friends in the Target Big Red Chair, the symbol for "Ready. Sit. Read!," a national reading program created by Target with the U.S. Department of Education. Other corporate contributors whose reading and literacy promotion programs were featured in the Let's Read America pavilion were AT&T; Educate Inc.; Half Price Books; PBS; Penguin Group (USA) / Pearson-Jumpstart Partnership; and Scholastic Inc. ◆

John Y. Cole is the director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Pat Fisher

Kansas Center for the Book coordinator Roy Bird, left, is joined at the Kansas table by young adult author Mike Klaassen, his son Paul Bird, and a volunteer from the Junior League of Washington.

Pat Fisher

At the Connecticut table Wendell Minor, who illustrated "Reaching for The Moon," written by astronaut Buzz Aldrin, greets Nelson Billington, grandson of Librarian of Congress James Billington.

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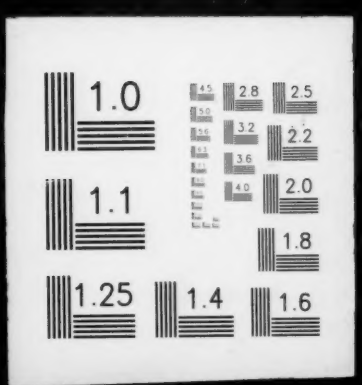
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